



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Olympic  
National  
Forest

Hood Canal Ranger District  
P.O. Box 280  
Quilcene, WA 98376

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**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** December 2, 2015

Dear Interested Party,

The Forest Service is giving notice of the 30 day opportunity to comment on the *Lower Skokomish Vegetation Management Project* Environmental Assessment (EA). The Forest Service is proposing thinning of about 4,500 acres on National Forest System Lands to accelerate the development of some of the structural and compositional features of late-successional forests and accelerate growth of forest stands in Late-Successional Reserve, Adaptive Management Area, and Riparian Reserve land management allocations within the Lower North Fork and Lower South Fork Skokomish River watersheds.

The project area is located on the Hood Canal Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest, in Mason County, Washington. The legal location of the project is: T22N, R05W, Sec. 1-14, 16-22, 26, 28-30, 31-34, 36; T22N, R06W, Sec. 13, 23, 22; T23N, R04W, Sec. 7-9, Willamette Meridian. Anyone wishing to review the project file or obtain additional information on the project should contact the project lead listed below. The EA and supporting documents can be viewed at the project webpage:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=43401](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43401)

Comments from the public concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a notice in *Peninsula Daily News*, Port Angeles, WA, the official newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a manner that they are useful to the agency. Therefore comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and comments. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in the subsequent objection period or judicial review. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent objection period or judicial review.

#### **How to Comment and Timeframe**

Comments must be submitted in a timely manner in writing, orally, or electronically to the responsible official, Dean Yoshina, Hood Canal District Ranger, through Kim Crider, project lead, at Olympic National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 1835 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Olympia,



WA 98512, or call 360-956-2376. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments can also be provided to project lead listed above, only during normal business hours via telephone or in person. Comments can be faxed to 360-956-2330.

Electronic comments may be submitted online via the project webpage.

[http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=43401](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43401)

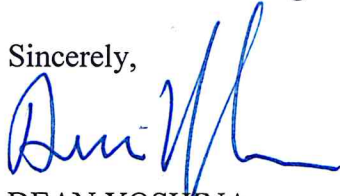
On the project website within the "Get Connected" group to the right click on "Comment on Project" and follow on-screen instructions for submitting comments. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments by electronic means to ensure that their comments have been received. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

No decision has been made at this time. Prior to a decision notice being issued for this project, it will be subject to objection pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 218. Individuals or organizations who submit timely comments may be eligible to object by meeting the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8.

I'd like to encourage you to review and comment on this project. If you have questions regarding this project or would like to obtain an electronic or hard copy of the EA, please contact Kim Crider, project lead, at the number listed above. Thank you for your continued interest in the Lower Skokomish Vegetation Management Project.

Sincerely,



DEAN YOSHINA  
Hood Canal District Ranger